

NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



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HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF JULY, 2004 IN VOLUMES OF 10,000 POUNDS OR GREATER UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

Prices paid to beekeepers for extracted, unprocessed honey in major producing states by packers, handlers & other large users, cents per pound, f.o.b. or delivered nearby, containers exchanged or returned, prompt delivery & payment unless otherwise stated.

- REPORT INCLUDES BOTH NEW AND OLD CROP HONEY -

CALIFORNIA

- Buckwheat, extra light amber, 93¢
- Clover, light amber, \$1.28
- Cotton/Alfalfa, extra light & 90 - 95¢
- Mixed Flowers, extra light amber, 80 - 95¢ ----- Mixed Flowers, light amber, 80 - 85¢
- Orange, white, \$1.20 – 1.33 ----- Orange, white, \$1.30 (small amount)
- Orange, extra light amber, \$1.15 (delayed payment) ----- Orange, light amber, \$1.08
- Wildflowers, extra light amber, 99¢

COLORADO

- Clover, white, \$1.25

FLORIDA

- Gallberry, white, \$1.20#
- Gallberry, extra light amber, 99¢ - 1.05# --- Gallberry, cut comb, \$1.50#
- Orange Blossom, white, \$1.10 – 1.25#
- Saw Palmetto, extra light amber, 95¢ - \$1.15*
- Wildflowers, extra light amber, \$1.05*

#Previously Contracted

**Small Lots*

IDAHO

- Clover, extra light amber, \$1.19
- Wildflowers, amber, \$1.19

KANSAS

- Alfalfa, light amber, 94 - 97¢
- Clover, white, \$1.24 ----- Clover, extra light amber, \$1.20

LOUISIANA

- Alfalfa, extra light amber, \$1.19

MICHIGAN

- Alfalfa, light amber, \$1.15

MINNESOTA

- Basswood/Lindon/Mint, light amber, \$1.25
- Pomegranate, extra light amber, \$1.14 ----- Pomegranate, light amber, 80¢

MONTANA

- Alfalfa, white, \$1.34
- Clover, white, \$1.37 ----- Clover, extra light amber, \$1.24
- Melter Honey, amber, 79¢

OHIO

- Clover, white, \$1.20

SOUTH DAKOTA

- Alfalfa, light amber, \$1.17
- Clover, white, \$1.05 – 1.25 ----- Clover, extra light amber, \$1.00
- Clover, light amber, \$1.00

TEXAS

- Chinese Tallow, light amber, 75 - 97¢
- Mesquite, white, \$1.13 – 1.22 ----- Mesquite, extra light amber, \$1.00 – 1.13

UTAH	- Alfalfa, light amber, \$1.00
WASHINGTON	- Alfalfa, light amber, 60¢ - Fireweed, white, \$1.50 - Mint, dark amber, 85¢ - Raspberry, white, \$1.00 – 1.20
WISCONSIN	- Clover, white, \$1.30

Prices paid to Canadian beekeepers for unprocessed bulk honey by packers & importers in U.S. currency, f.o.b. shipping point, containers included unless otherwise stated. Duty & crossing charges extra. Cents per pound.

ALBERTA	- Clover/Alfalfa, water white, \$1.30 (delivered to packer in the northeast)
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Prices paid to importers for bulk honey, duty paid, containers included, cents per pound ex-dock or point of entry unless otherwise stated.

EAST COAST.....	AUSTRALIA	- Salvation Jane, extra light amber, \$1.09
	INDIA	- Mixed Flowers, extra light amber, 74 - 85¢ - Mustard, extra light amber, 99¢ - \$1.12
	PAKISTAN	- Mixed Flowers, extra light amber, \$1.03
	VIETNAM	- Mixed Flowers, light amber, 74¢
WEST COAST.....	CHINA	- Mixed Flowers, white, 80¢
	MEXICO	- Mixed Flowers, light amber, 60¢
	VIETNAM	- Mixed Flowers, extra light amber, 75¢ - Mixed Flowers, light amber, 66 - 69¢

COLONY, HONEY PLANT & MARKET CONDITIONS DURING JULY

ARIZONA . . .

Temperatures were generally below normal in all parts of the state early in the month but warmed to above normal levels late in the month. Rainfall was sporadic around the state as monsoon weather patterns formed the early part of the month. Bees mostly worked desert bloom and alfalfa.

CALIFORNIA . . .

The first few days of July were unseasonably cool across the state. The low pressure system also brought thunderstorms and rain to the northern third of the State, especially in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The low pressure system was replaced by an upper level system bringing conditions that pretty much lasted through the end of the month. Temperatures again ranged from 2-6 degrees above normal with only a few isolated thunderstorms reported. Imperial posted a record-tying high of 112 degrees on the 21st. Dozens of wildfires broke out during the month, mostly around Los Angeles County.

The bees are doing very well despite the hot and dry conditions. In some areas, they were collecting a good flow from alfalfa and cotton. Some growers are letting the alfalfa grow longer than usual so supers were being added. Sales of supplemental feed also slowed during the month. At the end of July, bees were working in see alfalfa, safflower, melons and vegetables. Bees were being polled from vineseed fields. Some bee losses occurred from farmers spraying to close to the fields.

This year's honey crop is predicted to be smaller than the last couple of years. Sales of packaged and bulk honey continues to be fairly steady.

COLORADO . . .

Areas of Colorado did experience rainstorms towards the latter part of the month. Some parts of Colorado received significant amount of rain. Beekeepers report condition of bees to be normal. No excessive pest problems. Major sources of nectar and pollen were alfalfa and sweet clover.

GEORGIA . . .

Colonies around the state were in good condition. Colonies during the month were sustaining themselves by actively gathering pollen from miscellaneous wildflowers in all parts of the state as well as on stores of honey where necessary. Cotton in central and southern portions of Georgia served as a nectar source as well as a source for a significant summer honey flow, which is expected to continue into August. In the mountainous region of northern Georgia, sourwood served as a nectar source as well as producing some surplus honey. Weather during the month of July was hot with adequate moisture conditions. Trade sources report that honey prices have stabilized at levels lower than last summer's prices.

IDAHO . . .

Throughout much of the month state temperatures have been hot with most evenings bringing in clouds and showers thus cutting down flying time and affecting collection of nectar. Some areas had to use insecticides to control over population of insects due to excess moisture in some areas. Sources of nectar were alfalfa, clover, carrot seed and onion seed. Sources of pollen were sagebrush, corn, goldenrod, alfalfa, and clover. Some beekeepers are extracting honey and are expecting a lower yielding crop than last year, but due to demand, honey prices are weaker.

ILLINOIS . . .

Beekeepers encountered numerous late spring and early summer weather related problems with their colonies. Some beekeepers with hives in fields for pollination have been disappointed with yields. Some early extraction activities have proven quality honey would become a problem as the summer extraction was to unfold. Beekeepers are expecting poor yields and below average quality of honey this year.

Many local county fairs have been well attended over the month and preparations were beginning for the upcoming State Fair. The weather for the month was cooler than normal and Springfield, in the central part of the state, set a record low temperature of 53 on the 28th. A few beekeepers have elected to extract early and apply strips to their hives and forgo fall extraction. The southern region had frequent rainfall the last of the month and overnight temperatures in the low to mid 60's with daytime high's in mid 80's to low 90's.

Honey extraction and bottling for fairs was the main activity. Bulk honey movement has been slow.

INDIANA . . .

Beekeepers checked their bees and added supers particularly program ground and areas where clover fields were near hives. Clover produced a heavy pollen crop and collection has been good. Bee collection activities throughout the state have generally been good. Some cooler than normal temperatures and ample rainfall restricted the honey flow in some areas and honey yields will be affected at harvest. Most of the State's hives were in generally better condition than normal. It was noted beekeepers have treated their colonies for mites more aggressively than in past years. The State Apiary Inspector has been busy with their annual inspection and reported colonies are in generally good condition.

Beekeepers were busy collecting honey and comb samples for local county fairs and were preparing for the State Fair that will run from August 11 through August 22nd. Early samples indicated a wide range of honey quality, however wax samples have been generally good.

Honey movement was reported brisk as beekeepers were busy bottling honey. Bulk movement was slow as little movement was reported.

LOUISIANA . . .

Pollen and Nectar sources are vervain and wild flowers. Bee colonies are in good condition. Weather conditions are fairly good. June we got some much needed rain, but nearly too much moisture. Too much water, honey production slightly down, some high moisture due to rains requiring drying. Honey flow is moderate to good. Supply is good and demand is moderate.

MINNESOTA . . .

Weather conditions for most of the month were average to above average. End of the month saw temperatures go below normal. Some beekeepers report bees are getting less flight time due to cooler weather. There are no insecticide problems. The crop for this year seems to be better than the previous year. Major sources of nectar were yellow and white sweet clover, alfalfa and various trees. Pollen sources were sweet clover, alfalfa and Canadian Wildflowers.

MISSISSIPPI . . .

Colonies around the state were in good condition. In the southern and most northern portions of the state, colonies were sustaining themselves on various wildflowers which served as a modest source of pollen as well as on stores of honey in the hives. In the Delta and Prairie Belt regions, soybeans and cotton continue to serve as pollen and nectar sources and are expected to through most, if not all, of August. These sources are also allowing for the production of a modest amount of surplus honey. In the most northern portion of the state there were no significant nectar sources as the month of July ended. Extraction of honey was mostly completed in southern Mississippi by the end of July, but was still in progress in other areas of the state as the month ended. In southern Mississippi, some beekeepers were beginning to treat hives with antibiotics to prevent American Foul Brood as July ended. Weather in July continued to be hot with adequate moisture conditions for the state as the month ended. Earlier in the month moisture conditions had been above average in the central and northern areas of the state.

NEW ENGLAND . . .

Temperatures for the New England region were below normal for July. The average temperature was only 72 degrees with highs only reaching the low 80s and a maximum temperature of 87 occurring on the 3rd. The lows averaged in the mid 60s with a low of 55 degrees on the 8th.

Though the heavier precipitation might have helped nectar flow, beekeepers report cooler temperatures slowed hive activity and pollen collection has been light. Bees are reported to be working various wild plants and flowers as well as many farm crops such as squash and cucumbers.

NORTH CAROLINA . . .

According to the National Weather Service, North Carolina experienced a low-pressure system that contained a tremendous amount of moisture from the Gulf of Mexico. The thunderstorms have been variable, however, with many areas receiving much precipitation and some areas remaining in drought like conditions. Honey production for most areas in North Carolina has been good. However, even though sourwood was much better than last year, it was not quite as good as expected due to rain.

This is the time of year the beekeepers are checking their hives closely for Varroa Mites and Small Hive Beetles and encouraged to begin treatment if needed. Most pollination has been completed in the state, with the exception of cucumbers and pumpkins. Bees are beginning to work aster, golden rod and some secondary weed flowers. Honey sales should be good, with a good supply on the market. Weather conditions are favorable going into the fall season for a fall crop.

NORTH & SOUTH DAKOTA . . .

July was cool and wet with some areas dropping into the 30's and most daytime highs only reached the upper 40's to low 50's. The first week of the month, record rainfall was reported in both states when Rapid City, South Dakota received 1.45" on the 3rd and Jamestown, North Dakota accumulated over 2 ½". The next week, temperatures ranged from 3-8 degrees below with daytime highs that again set record lows when they never rose above the mid-40's. Several areas in both states recorded 2-3" of rain. Record setting rains continued into the middle of the month but temperatures rose to well above normal, especially in North Dakota where some locations had daytime highs in the low 100's. The month ended with another round of record-setting nighttime lows, mainly in South Dakota. Despite the cool and occasionally wet conditions, the rainfall was not enough to erase the deficit in some areas and by the end of July, growers were looking for additional precipitation to sustain the plants.

The month began with topsoil moisture levels at 69% adequate in North Dakota and 69% in South Dakota. By the end of July, topsoil moisture levels were 58% North Dakota and 62% in South Dakota.

The bees are reported to be in fairly good condition but the cool temperatures has many crops way behind normal. The first cutting of alfalfa was mostly done and some had just started their second cutting.

OKLAHOMA . . .

Pollen and Nectar sources are sun flowers, asters and little else. Bee colonies are doing well. Weather conditions are good. Had more rain than usual for July. Many bee keepers have taken their honey off and reported good crops. There is to be a seminar by Kim Flottum of Bee Culture on Oct. 15th and 16th.

TEXAS . . .

Pollen and nectar sources are beginning to fade, flowers are failing. Colony conditions are in good condition. There has been plentiful rains in most of Texas through the first of July., but not so good at present time. Honey production is good. Honey flow has been good thru the middle of July. Demand is average for this time of year and supply is average.

UTAH . . .

Weather conditions allow bee's significant flight time. Some sources are reporting the outlook for the honey crop to be better than the previous three years due to growing areas receiving moisture. Honey prices on the wholesale market are weaker. Major sources of pollen and nectar were alfalfa and clover. Some beekeepers started to extract honey the latter part of the month.

WASHINGTON . . .

July began with temperatures as much as 9 degrees above normal across the State with one-third of an inch of rain being the largest amount recorded. The lack of precipitation was beginning to cause some concern in Western Washington so some farmers began irrigating their fields as they were starting to dry up. For the first time anyone can remember, growers were harvesting strawberries, raspberries and blueberries at the same time. The week ending the 11th, temperatures cooled to as much as 8 degrees below normal that the only significant precipitation fell in Western Washington and it was just over one-fourth of an inch. Very hot and dry conditions returned the next week and remained through the end of July. Western Washington was the hardest hit as daytime highs were as much as 12-13 degrees above normal and many locations broke records when they topped 100 degrees the week ending July 25th. While temperatures soared, humidity levels dropped as low as 18% even in the forests and several fires burned across the State. By the end of July, topsoil moisture dropped from 72% to 44% and subsoil dropped from 75% to 58% as many areas are over 10" short on rainfall.

In Western Washington there was a good nectar supply in the fireweed but beekeepers are hoping for rain to help sustain the fireweed in the mountains. Producers reported a very good crop from raspberries and blueberries.

In Central and Eastern Washington, bees were busy collecting nectar from mint, alfalfa and vegetable seed crops. Queen activity was limited the first part of July but picked up as the honey flow increased. There were lots of plants blooming but the heat limited the flow. There are also reports of early queens that had to be replaced as they began to fail as the weather heated up. Producers are predicting about an average crop this year.

WISCONSIN . . .

Colonies were reported in good condition due to favorable weather conditions. The first of the month, soil moisture was in surplus with standing water as well as frequent rainfall. The end of the month warm, humid days and nights accelerated plant growth and ample nectar flow. Many beekeepers added supers to their hives as colonies had filled hive bodies. Very little disease problems has been reported.

Honey demand was reported well in the retail sector. Some bulk movement had been reported as some early extraction activity had begun.

U.S. EXPORTS OF HONEY BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION, QUANTITY & VALUE

	M A Y		2004		YEAR TO DATE 2004		
	QUANTITY		VALUE		QUANTITY		VALUE
	Kilograms		Dollars		Kilograms		Dollars
COMB HONEY & HONEY PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE ----- DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE							
Aruba	---	---			1,209		9,287
The Bahamas	---	---			1,588		3,710
Bahrain	---	---			1,951		5,608
China, Peoples Rep. of	12,120		11,342		11,342		38,201
Dominican Republic	---	---			1,083		9,959
Hong Kong	---	---			25,978		51,553
Israel	---	---			19,200		10,236
Japan	2,549		9,670		13,706		48,304
Korea, Republic of	---	---			2,012		2,638
Kuwait	---	---			169,452		228,674
Malaysia	---	---			7,385		9,686
Netherlands Antilles (ex. Aruba)	---	---			2,029		10,777
Philippines	---	---			187,607		255,645
Saudi Arabia	34,530		56,170		310,667		426,060
Turkey	---	---			3,000		7,248
United Arab Emirates	---	---			60,802		79,755
Yemen	20,054		28,600		39,020		89,850
SUB-TOTAL	64,519		100,954		858,031		1,288,271
HONEY, NATURAL, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED ----- DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE							
Bahamas	---	---			1,846		4,187
Barbados	---	---			2,799		9,687
Bermuda	---	---			4,991		21,190
Canada	18,152		48,989		14,383		295,920
Cayman Islands	---	---			972		3,672
Chile	---	---			42,842		112,406
China, Peoples Rep. of	17,706		54,900		115,732		184,956
Costa Rica	2,014		7,060		33,971		91,995
Denmark	17,340		22,746		17,340		22,745
Germany	---	---			18,850		42,793
Indonesia	---	---			16,819		39,600
Israel	---	---			230,400		398,848
Japan	500		4,102		5,805		27,648
Korea, Republic of	43,298		56,794		63,655		130,060
Kuwait	71,058		93,208		71,058		93,208
Mexico	---	---			9,717		12,745
Nepal	1,642		8,823		1,642		8,823
Philippines	16,843		71,731		17,402		73,898
Singapore	---	---			7,941		10,416
SUB-TOTAL	188,553		367,992		778,165		1,584,797
GRAND TOTAL	253,072		468,946		1,636,196		2,873,068

U. S. IMPORTS OF HONEY BY COUNTRY, QUANTITY AND VALUE

COUNTRY	M A Y 2004			YEAR TO DATE 2004		
	QUANTITY kilograms	CUSTOMS VALUE dollars	C.I.F. VALUE dollars	QUANTITY kilograms	CUSTOMS VALUE dollars	C.I.F. VALUE dollars
NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - - WHITE						
Australia	292,112	676,765	691,253	428,612	1,016,761	1,042,282
Brazil	---	---	---	201,219	574,104	598,226
Canada	281,118	828,335	833,280	3,882,971	12,069,478	12,157,369
Chile	38,528	107,550	110,966	292,810	815,483	840,297
China, Peoples Rep. of	138,040	179,060	199,560	4,291,262	6,700,727	7,225,465
Germany	18,940	40,895	42,615	70,702	167,518	174,118
India	243,699	441,540	461,121	1,006,993	1,907,195	2,022,300
Mexico	90,551	211,408	215,519	185,326	471,838	480,745
Moldova, Republic of	---	---	---	18,820	35,479	37,264
New Zealand*	---	---	---	425	3,757	3,933
Pakistan	---	---	---	57,000	95,950	99,296
Peru	72,000	151,742	159,840	235,669	543,251	568,167
Poland	37,700	83,540	86,710	112,810	262,211	270,321
Russian Federation	---	---	---	55,680	95,601	150,101
Spain	---	---	---	435	5,272	5,349
Turkey	---	---	---	100,200	223,514	234,774
Ukraine	---	---	---	60,121	137,220	144,220
United Kingdom	---	---	---	12,864	34,443	36,020
Uruguay	98,152	213,820	218,452	452,493	1,058,352	1,077,734
SUB-TOTAL	1,523,406	3,309,057	3,454,653	10,155,572	23,283,499	24,148,665

NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - - EXTRA LIGHT AMBER

Austria	2,298	7,591	8,037	2,298	7,591	8,037
Brazil	---	---	---	26,791	65,204	67,474
Canada	18,890	22,905	23,080	54,738	135,307	135,818
Chile	---	---	---	135,842	357,960	368,378
China, Peoples Rep. of	---	---	---	1,517,300	1,860,250	2,042,140
Egypt	39,600	76,428	80,466	79,200	150,084	157,833
Indonesia	111,360	150,336	171,112	371,200	526,170	609,259
Mexico	39,057	95,967	98,063	210,145	561,767	576,763
Romania	---	---	---	37,797	88,663	92,646
Russian Federation	36,000	55,600	62,100	71,760	116,392	123,146
Ukraine	---	---	---	17,647	37,588	40,574
Uruguay	179,235	402,009	423,243	697,057	1,656,909	1,718,612
Vietnam	---	---	---	134,070	224,202	244,008
SUB-TOTAL	426,440	810,836	866,101	3,355,845	5,788,087	6,184,688

NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - - LIGHT AMBER

Armenia, Rep. of	---	---	---	6,560	31,289	34,320
Brazil	---	---	---	551,415	1,457,437	1,520,519
Bulgaria	94,087	228,166	239,140	246,398	590,851	618,851
Canada	---	---	---	23,234	67,557	68,644
Chile	38,979	106,023	110,008	75,779	202,291	210,260
China, Peoples Rep. of	447,470	476,267	536,307	2,833,456	3,139,857	3,382,650
Czech Republic	---	---	---	130,044	338,585	351,193

IMPOSTS continued...

Dominican Republic	---	---	---	2,298	4,605	4,747
Egypt	---	---	---	890	2,727	2,876
France	---	---	---	2,356	17,279	18,279
Germany	---	---	---	9,899	53,943	54,443
India	38,966	70,680	75,180	1,612,105	2,952,868	3,195,307
Israel	---	---	---	1,468	6,048	6,439
Italy	---	---	---	400	2,644	2,736
Kenya	1,253	5,658	6,956	1,253	5,658	6,956
Mexico	72,797	181,964	185,785	144,866	47,254	355,469
New Zealand*	---	---	---	12,349	27,075	29,075
Pakistan	19,000	27,664	30,598	19,000	27,664	30,598
Peru	2,498	12,990	13,277	100,119	218,771	228,425
Portugal	---	---	---	214	2,616	2,718
Romania	37,520	85,425	89,406	565,313	1,375,115	1,430,411
Russian Federation	---	---	---	37,800	65,205	115,205
Spain	540	2,916	3,074	3,555	24,261	26,155
Switzerland	1,256	3,917	4,517	1,843	9,814	10,415
Taiwan	---	---	---	20,940	47,760	51,025
Thailand	78,000	173,394	182,261	379,500	802,312	849,489
Turkey	---	---	---	205,000	535,346	564,962
Ukraine	80,050	184,336	194,289	425,610	976,311	1,009,647
Uruguay	77,460	178,557	186,532	436,805	912,707	941,876
Vietnam	471,340	654,447	726,894	2,209,339	3,612,333	3,968,252

SUB-TOTAL	1,461,216	2,392,404	2,584,224	10,056,808	17,858,183	19,091,962
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NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE – NOT ELSEWHERE SPECIFIED OR INDICATED

Australia	885	5,337	5,508	10,245	62,066	63,937
Brazil	85	2,176	2,276	82,987	212,163	227,145
Canada	18,895	24,107	24,257	66,819	103,886	104,596
China, Republic of	---	---	---	95,251	101,464	111,564
Djibouti Arars-Issa	---	---	---	693	2,426	2,659
Dominican Republic	---	---	---	42,972	19,840	23,341
Egypt	---	---	---	3,870	4,485	5,027
France	---	---	---	717	12,217	16,212
Hong Kong	---	---	---	7,776	49,248	51,399
Israel	---	---	---	863	2,968	3,171
Italy	---	---	---	1,091	12,075	13,684
Malaysia	---	---	---	41,412	90,000	95,300
Mexico	65,800	169,277	170,030	368,635	1,023,465	1,035,918
Poland	2,589	7,044	7,366	9,327	20,682	21,769
Romania	---	---	---	39,622	118,747	126,247
Switzerland	1,967	19,152	20,150	7,199	69,515	72,873
Taiwan	---	---	---	27,447	84,748	85,819
Turkey	600	4,200	4,642	600	4,200	4,642
United Kingdom	---	---	---	394	3,243	3,719

SUB-TOTAL	90,821	231,292	234,229	807,920	1,997,438	2,069,017
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GRAND TOTAL	3,289,317	6,269,188	6,703,870	25,686,985	51,861,862	54,513,648
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* Excluding Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau

SOURCE: Department of Commerce, Foreign Trade Division